

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9-13 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 19 is amended and claims 20 and 21 are added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the personal interview conducted February 27, 2004. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks, and constitutes Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 9-11, 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,439 B1 to Randell et al. (hereinafter "Randell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,299,125 to Baker et al. (hereinafter "Baker"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Randell discloses a wireless communication protocol for communications between a controller 10 and one or more controlled devices 60. The controlled device may be a doll, as shown for example in Figure 1.

The Office Action asserts that "it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Baker's method for inputting information wherein a first morpheme input and a second morpheme input are speech coefficients and form a sentence to Randell's method for inputting information ... to provide users with an intelligent system that is able to combine morphemes and cipher to produce a syntactically and pragmatically correct sentence."

However, as discussed during the personal interview, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious because there is no motivation in Randell for producing such sentences. Nowhere in Randell is any relationship between the first morpheme and the second morpheme disclosed. Moreover, there is no indication that the doll disclosed in Randell is programmed to respond any differently to a combination of a first morpheme and a

second morpheme. Therefore, no such sentences are used in Randell, and their use would change the mode of operation of the doll.

In addition, the purpose of the doll in Randell is entertainment or education of children, whereas the purpose of the device disclosed in Baker is speech synthesis for those who cannot speak or who are mentally challenged. Therefore, the references are from non-analogous fields of endeavor.

Accordingly, the Office Action has not made out a prima facie case of obviousness. Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that Randell does not disclose or suggest "manipulating a deformable piece integrally connected to a hand-held computing device," as recited in claims 20 and 21. The doll shown in Fig. 1 of Randell is neither hand-held, nor is it a computing device, e.g., no central processing unit for performing computations is disclosed in the components of the doll shown in Figure 7. The controller which controls the doll does contain a processing unit as shown in Figure 2. However, it is not integrally connected to the deformable piece, as it communicates with the doll by wireless communications.

Similarly, claim 19 recites "whacking a deformable piece integrally connected to a device having a central processing unit." As discussed above with respect to claim 20, Randell does not disclose this feature.

Baker does not disclose or suggest "a deformable piece integrally connected to a hand-held computing device," and therefore does not remedy the deficiency of Randell with respect to claims 19 or 20.

Accordingly, as agreed to during the personal interview, claims 19 and 20 are patentable over the applied combination of references.

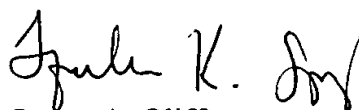
Claims 9-11 and 13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9-11 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 12 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Randell in view of Baker. However, claim 12 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 9-13, 19, 20 and 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jaquelin K. Spong
Registration No. 52,241

JAO:JKS/scg

Date: March 3, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 24-0037</p>
--